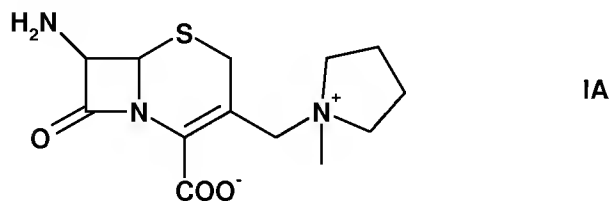


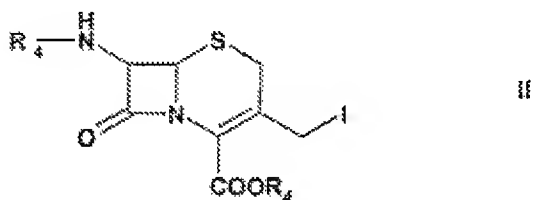
IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following abstract:

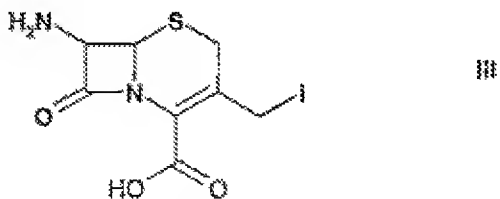
A process for the production of intermediates having a formula IA



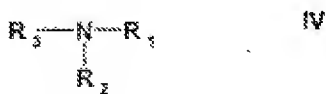
that can be used for the synthesis of cephalosporins, such as cefepime of formula V.  
The intermediates of formula IA are produced by desilylation of a compound of formula II



wherein R<sub>4</sub> is a silyl-protecting group, with a protic solvent to obtain a compound of formula III,



and reacting the compound of formula III with an organic base of formula IV



wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> together represent a C<sub>4</sub>-alkylene group, and with the adjacent nitrogen atom form a saturated 5-membered heterocycle, and R<sub>1</sub> represents a methyl group, to obtain the compound of formula 1A.